

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY PARIS
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, TU
SUBJECT: DEMIREL INTERVIEW

1. PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL, IN AN INTERVIEW IN THE
DECEMBER 14 'TERCUMAN' (CONSERVATIVE; PRO-GOVERNMENT),
DEFENDED HIS RECORD IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS WHILE ADDRESSING
SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ON TURKEY'S RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE US,
NATO AND GREECE.

2. DEMIREL STATED THAT TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS ARE
"HEALTHY", THAT BOTH SIDES HAVE AN INTEREST IN SEEING THAT
THEY CONTINUE TO DEVELOP POSITIVELY AND THAT HE IS CONFIDENT
THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WILL SHARE THESE SAME
VIEWS. THE PRIME MINISTER REPEATED HIS EARLIER STATEMENTS
THAT THE EMBARGO HAD CAUSED TURKEY TO "REVISE" ITS
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RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES BY SUSPENDING U.S.

ACTIVITIES AT THE COMMON DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS AND NEGOTIATING A NEW DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT. DEMIREL WENT ON TO SAY THAT, "THE EMBARGO HAS NOW BEEN LIFTED IN PRACTICE," AND THAT TURKEY WOULD RECEIVE \$250 MILLION IN EQUIPMENT AND ARMS IN 1976-1977. HOWEVER, BEFORE ACTIVITIES AT THE INSTALLATIONS CAN BE RESUMED, DEMIREL SAID, THE DCA MUST BE RATIFIED BY BOTH PARTIES.

3. RESPONDING TO QUESTION ABOUT FONMIN'S CAGLAYANGIL'S REMARKS ON TURKEY'S COMMITMENT TO NATO, DEMIREL CLAIMED THAT TURKEY HAS "FULFILLED ITS COMMITMENTS TO THE LETTER." BUT, HE ADDED, TURKEY CANNOT CONTINUE TO FULFILL ITS COMMITMENTS AT THE RISK OF WEAKENING ITS OWN DEFENSE. TURKEY'S ALLIES IN NATO, DEMIREL CONTINUED, UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING THE SOUTHERN FLANK STRONG AND HAVE MADE THE "NECESSARY CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACHES" TO THE U.S. WHERE, HE IMPLIED, THEY HAD RECEIVED A SYMPATHETIC HEARING AT THE PENTAGON.

4. DEMIREL DEFENDED THE RECORD OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S DEALINGS WITH GREECE. HE SAID THAT WHEN ECEVIT WAS PRIME MINISTER, THE GREEKS HAD CLAIMED THAT THE AEGEAN WAS A GREEK LAKE AND HAD REFUSED TO DISCUSS ITS STATUS WITH ECEVIT. WHEN HE BECAME PRIME MINISTER, DEMIREL CLAIMED, HE HAD PROVED THAT THE AEGEAN WAS NOT A GREEK LAKE BY SENDING THESISMIK INTO THE AEGEAN TO "PROSPECT". THEN THE GREEKS AGREED TO TALK AND SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS HAS SINCE BEEN MADE IN BOTH THE CONTINENTAL SHELF AND AIRSPACE DISPUTES. DEMIREL CONCLUDED BY SAYING TURKEY AND GREECE MUST SOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS AND HE ADMONISHED THE U.S. NOT TO INTERFERE IN TURKISH-GREEK RELATIONS.

5. COMMENT: DEMIREL'S COMMENTS ABOUT TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS ARE THE MOST POSITIVE HE HAD MADE IN SOME TIME. USIS OFFICER WAS TOLD DEC. 14 BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PRESS AND PUBLICATIONS (WHICH IS ATTACHED TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE) THAT THE UPBEAT TONE OF DEMIREL'S 'TERCUMAN' INTERVIEW WAS A RESULT OF PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER'S RECENT STATEMENT BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

MACOMBER
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